



The Four Way Flasher



Meadow Ridge Rotary Club

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Feb. 11, 2014

Website: www.MeadowRidgeRotary.ca

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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February is World Understanding Month

TODAY: Linda Murray - Membership Presentation
NEXT WEEK: Business Meeting at Chances Gaming Centre

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Invocation

Feb. 11	Sharon Kyle
Feb. 18	Betty Levens

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Fri. March 7	6pm	Membership "Pub Night" at the Legion	12101 224 St.

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It was 109 years ago this month that Paul Harris and three of his friends founded the first Rotary club. His goal was simple: to create an oasis of friendship amid a city of strangers, with those who shared his values.

Over time, the philosophy of Rotary developed and matured, and Rotarian ideals expanded to include service, vocational ethics, and international understanding. As Rotary grew and spread, Paul Harris envisioned a world in which conflict would ultimately melt away – a world where personal connections and acceptance of differences would relegate war to history. If people could only come together in a spirit of friendship and tolerance, he felt, they would soon realize how much they had in common.

Paul Harris was fortunate in his lifetime to see the Rotary idea take hold and establish itself in dozens of countries around the world. Every week, in 34,000 communities, his vision lives on in every Rotary club meeting. But nowhere in the world does Paul Harris' vision take life as vividly as it does at our annual Rotary International convention.

At a convention, for a few short days, we see the world as Paul Harris imagined it: a world where men and women from every corner of the globe come together, to build peace, to serve others, and simply to enjoy one another's company. Differences of background, politics, culture, and religion are woven together, all part of one bright tapestry. It is an unforgettable experience, one that Jetta and I look forward to every year. Every convention is different, and every one becomes a memory that we cherish.

This year, I will have the tremendous privilege of presiding over the 105th Rotary International Convention in Sydney, 1-4 June. Sydney is

a vibrant international hub, a gateway between East and West, and a wonderfully appropriate city to host a Rotary convention. It is tremendously diverse, rich in culture and history, and one of my favourite cities to visit; at once exciting and relaxed, it is a place where I know I will always feel at home – and always find something new to see and do.

In 2014, Rotary members will gather to say G'day from Sydney. We will come together as friends and Rotarians, to reach out to the world and to one another, in an environment where all are welcome. I hope you will join us as we celebrate our successes, look to the future, and discover new ways to Engage Rotary, Change Lives.

Ron D. Burton - RI President 2013-14

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Guests

Our guests for the day were **Irena Shantz, Kevin Nosworthy, Lindsay Norcross** and **Rhian Piprell** from the Coquitlam Sunrise Club, who together with her husband Clarke were part of the Nicaragua team.

Happy and Sad

- **Angie Edmonds** is happy to be back from a great trip to Nicaragua with our international delegation; and is doubly happy that after 5 ½ years she and her partner Duane have set a wedding date for July 4, 2014 in Australia (nothing like going halfway around the world to say "I do"!).
- **Bob Shantz** was happy to be over a long court trial (even though another one will be starting in about a week) but sad to say that the Club has not yet found an auto dealer to

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$85.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 49 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

donate a car for the Duck Race (which may put the duck Race in jeopardy).

- **Ineke Boekhorst**, too, is happy to be back from the International trip to Nicaragua (and will tell us all about it in an upcoming meeting in March), and also happy to say that our exchange student will be going to Revelstoke to see a bit of the country and to participate in a Rotary function which will also be attended by Ineke and Peter's daughter (who is the Assistant District Governor in that Rotary District).
- **Brian Johnston's** son is turning 29, which makes Brian sadly contemplate the fact that is no longer a spring chicken (or is that a spring a rooster?).

Announcements

- **President Adrienne Dale** thanked **Patrick O'Brien** for hosting our fireside at his home, and stated that although there was poor attendance, a great time was had by all who ventured out. Adrienne reminded us to invite our spouses to upcoming firesides as our firesides are now more of a social function than a business meeting. Adrienne also advised that the Club will not be continuing with the sports banquet as a Club fund raiser.
- Our **February 18** noon meeting will be held at Chances.
- On **March 7** our Club will host a Membership Pub Night at the Legion - all are encouraged to bring a guest.
- On **March 11 Ineke** will tell us all about the trip to Nicaragua, no doubt accompanied by some pictures of their adventure.

Ineke spoke to us about a "Global Grant" from Rotary International to fund the stocking of a school in Nicaragua. Ineke stated that while in Nicaragua they made contact with a Rotary club who will be the host club for the Global Grant. In order to obtain the Global Grant, the criteria (among other things) is that the project must be sustainable and show long-term success, be in response to a real community need, and have actively-involved Rotarians and community members at the location of the project. The International Committee was given the club's go-ahead to pursue this worthy objective.

Club Program - Who's Who

Our speaker for the day was our own **David Rempel** who gave us his own "Who's Who".

A Bit of Family History

David's Mennonite family came from the Ukraine, in Russia. In 1780, Catherine the Great invited Mennonites to Russia where, being a hard-working group, they became prosperous farmers and business persons. Being pacifists, the Mennonites refused to serve in the Army, and were treated badly. In the late 1930s and 1940s, many of the Mennonite men had been taken and hardship and starvation was rampant. David's own grandmother died of starvation. In or about 1945, David's mother prepared the family for a trek to the West, travelling on foot and by cattle car. They ended up in Germany, but David's father died shortly after D-Day after suffering terribly.

A New Life in BC

David's mother was urged to take the family to Paraguay, but she saw a better life for her family in Canada. In November 1949, David's mother and siblings boarded a liner to Halifax, and then travelled by CPR to Mission, British Columbia (after a brief stop to visit relatives in Brandon, Manitoba).

After much hard work, scrimping and saving, Dave's mother purchased an acre of land in 1952 and moved into a small house (with a floor made out of recycled ship lap). The family got by with picking berries, growing their own vegetable garden, and owning a cow.

Education

Dave's mother was keen on education and made sure that all of her children went to school. Dave graduated from the school in Winnipeg and after one more year of teacher training at UBC, started his teaching career in the public schools. He started in Princeton but also taught school in Hope, and became involved in extracurricular activities for his students.

In September 1971 he moved to Gibson on the Sunshine Coast, and not long thereafter became principal of the school there.

He built him a home, and bought him a boat, aptly named "Misconduct".

In 1976 he completed his Masters degree at the University of Oregon and in 1977 became the principal of Alexander school in Maple Ridge. Thereafter, he went on to get his PhD in Education, also at the University of Oregon.

David always believed in getting his students involved in trips outside of the school program, and took many students on trips throughout BC and elsewhere. He also got actively involved in the student exchange program and in 1981 took his first trip with exchange students to the USSR. He retired as principle of Mount Crescent School in 1995

Adoption Society

David is very proud of his and Sharon's involvement with the adoption of orphans from Russia. Due to their efforts and with the help of other like-minded persons, they were responsible for adopting more than 200 orphans from Russia who now have made their homes in Canada.

Retirement, Family and Rotary

In April 1990, he somehow convinced Sharon to marry him, as they exchanged vows on their deck with the swans swimming in the background. They have two children, Jacqueline who is a teacher, and Julia who is going into law enforcement.

David has also continued his interest in education, by now serving his sixth term as School Board Trustee in SD42.

In 1984 he was awarded the Four Way Test Award by the Haney Rotary club in Novosibirsk, Russia. In 1998 he joined our own Meadow Ridge Rotary club.

Bird Sanctuary

As most of us know, David has on his property a bird sanctuary which is also one of his major passions. Since the 1990s, more than 3000 students have visited his property and learned about the many exotic swans and other birds which he raises and enjoys. Not only does he enjoy his property himself, but he always shares it with the community.

Despite all his hard work and travels, Dave says that his tires are still in good shape, with lots of tread left to carry him forward on with his future journeys through life.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson